

Eight Yeomen gone from last year's roster Hockey squad missing top gunners

by Josh Rubin

For a hockey coach who's losing a third of his roster, Graham Wise is in surprisingly good spirits.

Wise, who coaches the York squad, is preparing for training camp without eight of last year's players, including OUAA scoring leader Brian MacDonald.

MacDonald, who graduated after the 1990-91 season, has gone to Europe, and is currently on the roster of the Hagfort Vikings, a team in the Swedish second division.

Also missing from this year's team will be sharp-shooting forwards Luciano Fagioli and Pat Howie, along with goaltender Ted Mielczarek.

Wise admits that the shoes of players like MacDonald will be hard to fill, but says he isn't too nervous.

"We've got some strong guys coming in, and we've also got some strong forwards already here," said Wise.

Still, Wise emphasized that every spot on the team is up for grabs.

"No one on this team has a place reserved — they have to earn one," warned Wise.

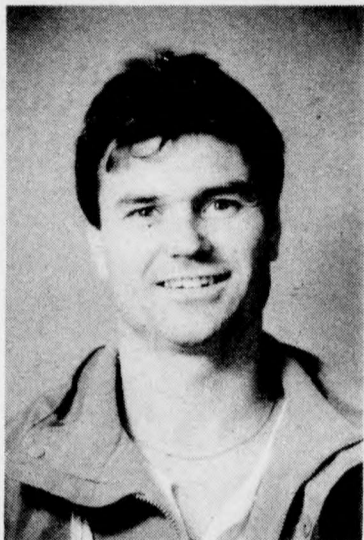
Some of those returning players who will be expected to take on an increased load this season include former Belleville Bull centre Jimmy Dean and team captain Mike Futa.

Futa's return comes as somewhat of a surprise to many observers, as he had been widely expected to play in Europe during the upcoming year.

Another player Wise expects to benefit from the Yeomen's change up front is hard-working forward Rob Miwa.

"I really think there are some guys who are going to do well because they're getting more ice time," added Wise.

Rookie help is also on the way in the form of a host of junior B players, including forwards Scott Kerins and Mick Andrews as well as defenceman



I'M FALLING, and I can't get up. Brian MacDonald(above), pictured here in action against the Guelph Gryphons last season, is gone from the Yeomen lineup

this year. Also missing are seven others, including Luciano Fagioli and Ted Mielczarek. Head coach Graham Wise (above left) will have his hands full.



Brian MacDonald in action during last season, when he took the OUAA scoring title.

Tom Purcell.

On the defensive end of things, hard-hitting veteran rearguard Guy Girouard is likely to play a key role on a young defensive squad.

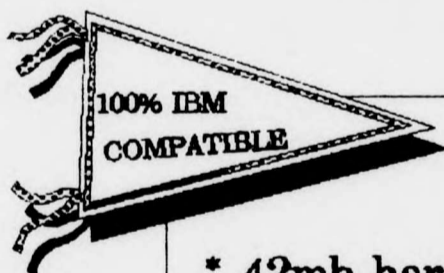
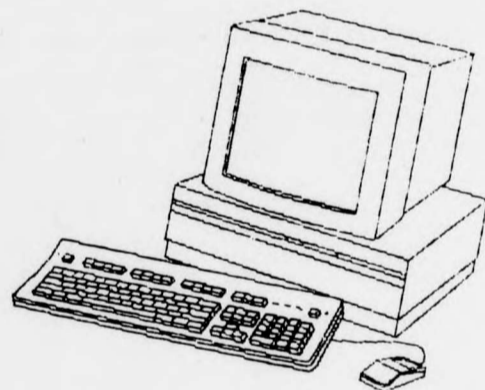
One area where the Yeomen have an abundance of talent is between the pipes, where the veteran Willie Popp is expected to battle it out with Mike Noonan for the top job.

Since joining the squad midway through last year, Noonan has given a more than solid performance, and will likely give Popp a run for his money.

Also on Wise's 40-man training camp roster are four other goalies, including Terry Sawdon, who last



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